not known to have any impact on the ozone layer. India's production of CFCs is less than 0.6 per cent of the present global production.

Research on Indian Neem tree

4397. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
SHRI RANJAN PRASAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Economic Times dated 15th July, 92 under the caption 'Neem Cornucopia of Third World;

(b) whether it is fact that multipurpose research on Indian Neem tree and its products is being done in Germany; and

(c) if so, whether India is collaborating in the research and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Government have seen the Newspaper report.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) No, Sir, However, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education is conducting research on "Neem" independently.

Checks by biological method on land degradation

4398. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the biological method checks land degradation, reclaims wastelands, and restores ecological balance of the area;

(b) whether it is a fact that RDAT (Centre for rural development and appropriate technology) has conducted experiments using Biological method to boost reclamation of saline waste land; and

(c) it so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The biological methods, like tree planting, help in land reclamation and check soil erosion through the root system. Further, leaf litter helps in water retention and humans formation and hence restores the ecological balance of the degraded soil.

(b) and (c) Experiments on trial basis have been conducted by the Centre for Rural Development and Appropriate Technology at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, on the growth of salt tolerant, energy yielding species (eg. **Acacia Prosopis, Leucaena leucocepholea,** etc.) on highly saline soils. After five years of plantation, the soil found to show positive results.

New Strategy for wastelands development

4399. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the new strategy adopted by Government for wastelands deveopment;

(b) the targets set for afforestation at the time of creation of National Wasteland Development Board and the extent to which targets have been achieved;

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been tardy progress in implementing the afforestation programme under National Wasteland Development Board; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Wastelands Development Programme is aimed at checking land degradation and putting wastelands in the country to sustainable use, increasing biomass availability, especially fuelwood, fodder and forest produce and restoring the ecological balance. For achieving these goals a mission approach has been adopted for enlisting people's participation, harnessing the inputs of science and technology and achieving inter-disciplinary

coordination in planning and programme implementation. The main element of the strategy are as given below:—

(i) Enlisting people's participation at all stages, specially through the Panchayats.

(ii) Integrated land use planning on watershed basis.

(iii) Preparation of village level action plans.

(iv) Emphasis on conservation, ecological restoration and natural regeneration.

(v) Fuelwood, fodder and timber production.

(vi) Extension of appropriate technology to the field.

(vii) Resolution of relevant policy issues.

(viii) Focus on degraded forest areas, degraded pastures and public lands, private wastelands and dry farm lands.

(b) to (d) The National Wastelands Development Board was established in May 1985. The targets for afforestation and tree planting activities are fixed on a year to year basis depending on availability of funds in the Central and State Plans. The total achievement of afforestation and tree planting activities under the 20-Point Programme during the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90) was 8.8 million hectares against the target of 8.6 million hectares. This compares with the coverage of 8.2 million hectares from the First to the Sixth Five Year Plans (1950-85). The targets and achievements for 1990-01 and 1991-92 are given below:—

Seedlings in crore Area in lakh hectares

	Target		Achievement	
	Seedling distribution (For planting on private lands)	Area (Public lands, including forest lands)	Seedling distribution (For planting on private lands)	Area (public lands, including forest lands)
1990-91	250.00	5·5	126·93	7·59
1991-92	150.00	10·5	137·86	10.03

"Scheme of OWN YOUR TREE' and 'OWN YOUR TEAK TREE"

4400. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the plantation companies in each State/Union Territory which are offering "Own Your Tree" and "Own Your Teak Tree' Scheme and also the details of such schemes State/Union Territory-wise; and

(b) whether Government propose to promote such schemes; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Central Government has not sponsored any plantation company in any State or Union Territory for implementing schemes like "Own Your Tree" and "Own Your Teak Tree".